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THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

ON EARTH PEACE. . . NATION SHALL NOT LIFT UP SWORD AGAINST NATION, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE.

NEW SERIES.

BOSTON, JUNE, 1869.

No. 6.

A HYMN OF PEACE.

Written for the National Peace Jubilee by

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

Angel of Peace, thou hast wandered too long!
Spread thy white wings to the sunshine of love!
Come while our voices are blended in song,
Fly to our ark like the storm-beaten dove!
Fly to our ark on the wings of a dove,
Speed o'er the far-sounding billows of song,
Crowned with thine olive-leaf garland of love.
Angel of Peace thou hast waited too long!

Brothers, we meet on this altar of thine,
Mingling the gifts we have gathered for thee,
Sweet with the odors of myrtle and pine,
Breeze of the prairie, and breath of the sea,
Meadow and mountain and forest and sea!
Sweet is the fragrance of myrtle and pine,
Sweeter the incense we offer to thee,
Brothers, once more round this altar of thine!

Angels of Bethlehem, answer the strain!
Hark! a new birth-song, is filling the sky!
Loud as the storm-wind that tumbles the main,
Bid the full breath of the organ reply.
Let the loud tempest of voices reply,
Roll its long surge like the earth-shaking main!
Swell the vast song till it mounts to the sky!
Angels of Bethlehem, echo the strain!

AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

ITS FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY—ANNUAL REPORT.

The specific and sole aim of the Peace Cause is to do away war among nations. This custom, nearly coeval and co-extensive with our race, has been, in every age and clime, their chief, all-pervading curse. The world's history from first to last, from Cain to Napoleon and Jefferson Davis, has been little else than a record of its vices, crimes and manifold evils. Nor has its inveteracy been less remarkable than its universality. Everywhere has it held its grasp of death upon all nations. Not only has it prevailed with the full sweep of its evils in every pagan land, but it has even continued through all the Christian ages well-nigh unchallenged. Indeed, Christianity itself, as understood and practised for the last sixteen centuries, has attempted little more than partially regulate its barbarous and brutal work of wholesale murder, robbery and devastation. The substance, the root of all its evils still remains. Even now the highest aim of Christians themselves is not to do it away entirely, but merely to perfect this master-piece of the

devil, and render its vast and terrible enginery more and more effective for mischief and misery.

How strange this perversion, and stranger still the fact that men, calling themselves civilized and Christian, should at this late day make it their chief boast, the climax of all their achievements, that they have carried so near perfection this art and science of mutual butchery and destruction. So far, indeed, has this species of suicidal improvement gone, that the war-system, still cherished as the Dagon of national idolatry by even reputed followers of the Prince of Peace, that it now costs them in one form or another about \$2,000,000,000 every year, has increased their war-debts to the astounding aggregate of some \$15,000,000,000, and employs in Europe alone, or holds in readiness, for mutual mischief and vengeance, full seven millions of her most able-bodied men in time of peace.

Were not this strange absurdity directly before our eyes, we could hardly conceive it possible. Just look at this bundle of inconsistencies. Here is a religion whose Founder was styled the Prince of Peace; whose birth song from angel lips was, *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace*; whose prophetic heralds a thousand years before foretold as its proper and promised fruit, as the culmination of its blessings and its glory, that it should constrain nations to beat their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruning-hooks, and learn war no more; but now the very professors of this peaceful religion make it their chief boast that they have perfected the art of warfare beyond anything ever dreamed of by pagans, and that no power on earth can stand before their disciplined warriors and their improved engines of death and destruction. On this war-system they lavish an amount of treasure, life and moral power that would suffice, with God's blessing, to evangelize half a score of such worlds as ours. Alas! for the inconsistency of professed Christians on this subject! And yet not one pulpit or Christian press in ten, if one in a hundred, sets itself at work in downright earnestness to secure such an application of the gospel to this master sin and scourge as alone can ever banish it from any land on the globe.

Let us, however, thank God that so many Christians are at length opening their eyes somewhat on this subject, and a few are combining to rally the community in efforts to avert or mitigate the evils inseparable from this custom. They have arranged and partially put in operation a system of means designed to enlighten the public mind on this